



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0523

March 17, 2021

Brigadier General Paul E. Owen
Commander, South Pacific Division
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
450 Golden Gate Avenue
San Francisco, California 94102

Dear General Owen:

On December 18, 2019, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) announced it was commencing the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process to review, evaluate, and ultimately select a location for a new U.S. Forest Service (USFS) visitor center in the Lake Isabella community as part of the Isabella Lake Dam Safety Modification Project. In that announcement, the USACE stated that the review should generally take 12 months, but the NEPA process has yet to be completed.

Accordingly, I request a detailed, step-by-step timeline from the USACE, in consultation with the USFS, on the new USFS visitor center project, including specific information on key decision points for the USACE and the USFS, such as:

- (1) When the current NEPA review process and documentation will be completed;
- (2) When the location of the new visitor center will be selected;
- (3) When construction on the new visitor center will commence; and,
- (4) When the new visitor center will be opened to the public.

I appreciate the USACE on-the-ground team's efforts and commitment to making this new Forest Service visitor center a reality and understand that provisions providing the USACE additional authority related to this project were not enacted as part of Public Law 116-260 until this past December. However, given this proposed facility has been discussed for almost a decade and the NEPA process started over 14 months ago, the USACE and the USFS need to expeditiously bring the visitor center to fruition.

Therefore, I ask that you please provide me the timeline with the requested information no later than Friday, March 26, 2021. Thank you for your continued attention on this issue.

Sincerely,



KEVIN McCARTHY
House Republican Leader

cc: Col. James Handura
Commander, Sacramento District
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Mr. Randy Moore
Regional Forester
Pacific Southwest Region
U.S. Forest Service

Ms. Teresa Benson
Supervisor, Sequoia National Forest
U.S. Forest Service